THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) For making self-assessment procedure by Income tax assessee a simple matter, the Government has introduced a simplified procedure for small retailers having turnover upto Rs. 6 lacs. Similarly, estimated income schemes have been introduced for small businessmen engaged in the civil construction and hiring or leasing of goods carriages. These schemes offer a simple procedure for determining tax on estimated income.

(b) No, Sir.

Approvals to Bridge Loans

276. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stopped granting approvals for Bridge loans against approved ECB by private Sector after problems with India Hotels Limited;

(b) if so, the justification thereof, particularly in the context of current for reserves; and

(c) the likelihood of permitting Bridge Loans in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Grant of allowances to Indian Airlines Officers

277. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of the Indian Airlines has recently granted allowances to its officers at the level of general manager and above;

(b) if so, the nature of allowances given and the financial implications thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Chairman of Indian Air lines has also exhorted its employees to exercise a self imposed moratorium on any wage or allowances hike in the coming months; and

(d) if so, the reasons for grant of new allowances in view of the chairman's exhortion?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Officers of the level of General manager and above in Indian Airlines have been allowed re-imbursement of expenses on certain amenities at their residences like furnishing, crockery, electricity, newspapers/literature etc. with effect from 1st March, 1995. The financial implication is of the order to Rs. 57 lakhs per annum.

(c) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Expansion of the building of Mangalore airport

278. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATIOIN AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to expand airport building of Mangalore airport; and

(b) if so, what are the details of new facilities provided to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Plans to upgrade airports in Bihar

279. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) has any plans to upgrade